



## **West Fertilizer Plant Explosion**

### **Regional Update**

**April 26, 2013, 1900 CDT**

- On April 26, 2013 EPA continued daytime air monitoring activities with three stationary sites to the west and north of the facility. The northern monitoring site was added to provide a downwind site during south winds. The site is approximately one half mile north of the fertilizer facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- On April 26, 2013, a debris coordination meeting was held at 0900 with EPA, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), Texas Forest Service (TFS), FEMA, TCEQ and the McClellan County Emergency Manager (MCEM) representing the City of West. Different methods of demolition and environmental mitigation were discussed. The decision tree for asbestos evaluation developed during the Joplin, MO. tornado recovery was discussed. A debris coordination meeting will be held at 1000 on April 27, 2013 with all of the above participants and FEMA will provide an initial debris management plan.
- As reported in the 0900 meeting, approximately 150 homes were damaged or destroyed by the explosion.
- Evacuees will be re-entering their homes beginning at 0700 on April 27, 2013. The incident management team has developed a re-entry plan that was distributed during the 1600 operational update meeting. Urban Search and Rescue teams, mental health workers and law enforcement personnel will be provided to assist the returning evacuees.



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- EPA is compiling air monitoring data for ammonia to be uploaded onto the TCEQ website. EPA Toxicologist will assess results before submitting to TCEQ.
- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting 24 hour air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. ATF investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>EPA OSC In Field</b>	<b>EPA RSC in Field</b>	<b>R6 Contractor In Field</b>	<b>National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents</b>	<b>EPA In REOC</b>	<b>Contractor In REOC</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

\*Current as of 1900hrs 4/26. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.